UNITED NATIONS **A**

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/49/373
12 September 1994

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-ninth session
Item 26 of the provisional agenda*

COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL OF FOREIGN MILITARY FORCES FROM THE TERRITORIES OF THE BALTIC STATES

Letter dated 6 September 1994 from the Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of a statement by the European Union on the withdrawal of former Soviet troops from Latvia and Estonia, issued on 31 August 1994 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you could have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 26 of the provisional agenda

(Signed) Detlev GRAF ZU RANTZAU

---

* A/49/150.

ANNEX

[Original: English and French]

Statement on the withdrawal of former Soviet troops from Estonia and Latvia issued on 31 August 1994 on behalf of the European Union by its Presidency

The European Union welcomes the withdrawal of former Soviet troops from Estonia and Latvia as an event of historic significance. The withdrawal closes one of the last remaining questions arising from the Second World War. It represents a major step forward with a view to future-oriented cooperation between the Baltic States and Russia and will thus enhance security and stability in the Baltic Sea region as well as in the whole of Europe. In this context the European Union considers the strict implementation of the concluded agreements to be of prime importance. This success, which also contributes to the European Union's initiative for a pact on stability, has been made possible through the continued efforts of all parties concerned and their readiness to compromise. The European Union in particular appreciates that, although the withdrawal of troops from the Baltic States represents in many respects a difficult task, Russia has fulfilled its obligations and has acted according to the Helsinki Summit Declaration of 1992. The European Union hopes that the Baltic States and Russia will build upon this achievement good cooperative relations and strive for the solution of still open questions in a spirit of dialogue and mutual understanding.

The four acceding countries associate themselves with this statement.